

25 APR 1970

Capitol Views

Russian Intrigue Details Bared

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WASHINGTON, April 24 — A human document, 1,000 pages long, more absorbing than many a fictional spy thriller and twice as revealing in its exposure of espionage and propaganda



Edwards

techniques, awaits publication by the Senate internal security subcommittee.

This transcript of secret testimony by a Russian defector, who worked for many years under the direction of the KGB, the soviet secret police, is so far-reaching

in some of its segments that a question of the subcommittee's jurisdiction has arisen.

The internal security of nations other than the United States is affected by its disclosures. This information is already in the hands of the countries involved, some of them partners in the North Atlantic Treaty organization. Prominent foreign personalities are involved.

The subcommittee, as its name indicates, is confined to inquiries involving the security of the United States. Its chairman, Sen. James O. Eastland [D., Miss.], and members face a delicate problem in deciding how much may be published without injury to international relations.

If some deletions are necessary, the transcript will not lose its impact as the freshest revelation of Russian intrigue to come into the subcommittee's hands.

IT WILL CHILL some of the hundreds of American educators, writers, scientists, and politicians who have come back from visits behind the iron curtain to enthuse about the prospects for cultural exchanges and development of freedom in the intellectual community there.

Most of them were in the hands of KGB agents from start to finish. They were trapped, if possible, into compromising positions with attractive Russian women, becoming potential blackmail victims. They were presented a completely false picture of soviet conditions by the warm and friendly companions who greeted them

One of these greeters was Yuri Krotkov, now in his fifties, an author and playwright of some repute in Moscow, who acted as a "steerer" or "roper" of intellectuals from foreign lands.

Krotkov, according to his testimony, worked for the secret police for 17 years. He was, and is, a cultured man of pleasing appearance, a linguist who could converse on familiar terms with French, English, German, Spanish, and American visitors, charming them with his liberal attitudes. He scored some sensational successes in luring men of prominence into the toils of the KGB.

WHEN HE WAS sent abroad by the KGB, Krotkov posed as a correspondent for Tass, the soviet news agency. His reputation as a dramatist, author of an anti-American play based on the life of Paul Robeson, gave him entry into all social circles.

He eventually became nauseated by his role. His play, he said, was "propaganda of the purest water—cheap, primitive pamphleteering," but the Moscow critics raved about it. He enjoyed having his suits made by a fashionable tailor and "taking good-looking girls to expensive restaurants," but he felt like "a cog in a huge machine," grinding out propaganda.

In 1963, after first transmitting to microfilm copious notes on his spying experiences, he fled to England, where the British seized his evidence and impounded it under the official secrets act. Thus, most of his evidence will be published for the first time by the subcommittee. He is now in the United States under a pseudonym and has been given permanent residence here.

The Senate this week voted 5 million dollars for free trips to Russia for 1,000 elected United States officials and their wives. The goal is better understanding between Russia and the United States. The Senate may want to reconsider this action after reading the Krotkov manuscript.

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Approved For Release 2005/11/21 : CIA-RDP73B00296R000500140017-4

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